

MARICOPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MINUTE BOOK

**SPECIAL SESSION
April 21, 2004**

The Board of Supervisors of Maricopa County, Arizona convened in Special Session at 10:20 A.M., April 21, 2004, in the Supervisors' Conference Room, 301 W. Jefferson Phoenix, Arizona, with the following members present: Andrew Kunasek, Chairman, District 3; Fulton Brock, District 1, Don Stapley, District 2, Max W. Wilson, District 4, and Mary Rose Wilcox, District 5. Also present: Fran McCarroll, Clerk of the Board, Shirley Million, Administrative Coordinator and Paul Golab, Deputy County Attorney.

RESOLUTION – LAND EXCHANGES NEAR LUKE AIR FORCE BASE

Item: Adopt a Resolution of the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors regarding the support of land exchanges within the 65 Ldn Noise Contours and Accident Potential Zones of Luke Air Force Base. (ADM3423)

At the request of Chairman Kunasek, Clerk of the Board Fran McCarroll read the resolution into the record.

RESOLUTION

**Of the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors Regarding the
Support of Land Exchanges within the 65 Ldn Noise Contours and
Accident Potential Zones of Luke Air Force Base**

WHEREAS, the State of Arizona and Maricopa County and its people recognize the vital role Arizona and Luke Air Force Base play in ensuring our military's unparalleled training, combat readiness, and air superiority in protecting American freedom; and

WHEREAS, Luke Air Force Base has operated continuously since 1951 as a top rate pilot training facility, plays a vital role in our nation's military superiority, is the home of the largest fighter wing in the United States Air Force, trains all F-16 pilots and crew chiefs for the United States Air Force, and is strategically located within fifty miles of the Barry M. Goldwater Range; and

WHEREAS, in 1951 Luke Air Force Base was originally located in an unurbanized, agricultural portion of the Phoenix metropolitan area, but is now within one of the fastest growing counties and municipal areas in the Nation and the State of Arizona; and

WHEREAS, the preservation of Luke Air Force Base is an issue of national, state and local concern; and

WHEREAS, the State of Arizona, Maricopa County, and other local communities and landowners surrounding Luke Air Force Base have made substantial strides in preserving the mission of Luke Air Force Base and those efforts have been held as a model around the Nation for the preservation of military facilities; and

WHEREAS, The Arizona Congressional Delegation has secured over \$27.3 million of federal funding to acquire land and development easements surrounding Luke Air Force Base; and

WHEREAS, the United States Army Corps of Engineers has been charged with the acquisition of lands and development easements through the use of such federal funds; and

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WHEREAS, the preservation efforts have placed a considerably disproportionate burden of protecting a vital national defense asset on the surrounding landowners; and

WHEREAS, despite these efforts, Luke Air Force Base continues to face the increasing challenges caused by considerable growth; and

WHEREAS, additional land use restrictions surrounding Luke Air Force Base are impractical to implement without imposing an even greater and disproportionate burden on the landowners, many of whose families have owned and farmed the surrounding lands before the presence of Luke Air Force Base; and

WHEREAS, one of the major long-term public policy solutions for the preservation of Luke Air Force Base is a voluntary land exchange between the United States Bureau of Land Management and the owners of the vacant land and farm land within the 65 Ldn noise contours and accident potential zones surrounding Luke Air Force Base; and

WHEREAS, the federal government has extraordinary landholdings in Arizona to support a land exchange solution; and

WHEREAS, utilizing a land exchange for those lands not otherwise acquired through the efforts of the United States Army Corps of Engineers to purchase lands and development easements with federal funds would complete the expansion of Luke Air Force Base and would establish a permanent buffer zone of protection to eliminate the challenges of preservation caused by sustained growth pressure;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors is in support and urges the United States Congress to authorize the United States Bureau of Land Management to prepare and execute a land exchange of equitable value between the United States and the land owners of vacant land and farm land within the 65 Ldn noise contours and accident potential zones of Luke Air Force Base.

Passed by the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors this 21st day of April 2004.

/s/ Andrew Kunasek, Chairman of the Board
/s/ Fulton Brock, District One
/s/ Don Stapley, District Two
/s/ Max Wilson, District Four
/s/ Mary Rose Wilcox, District Five

ATTEST:

/s/ Fran McCarroll, Clerk of the Board

Supervisor Wilson expressed his appreciation of the Board's support in actions taken by the County during the past year in their continuing efforts to help protect Luke. Several important issues were introduced recently that could have had a negative effect on the future of the Base. All the Supervisors are united in their resolve to do whatever is necessary to preserve the status of the Base.

Motion was made by Supervisor Wilson, seconded by Supervisor Wilcox, and unanimously carried (5-0) to approve the above resolution.

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MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST:

Andrew Kunasek, Chairman of the Board

Fran McCarroll, Clerk of the Board